

Hooray and THANK YOU!

The J2A Pilgrimage Auction raised over \$8,000. When we combine that with the hoped for proceeds of \$2000 from the First Annual Trinity Golf Tournament much of the group fundraising will have been accomplished as long as the Euro and airfares don't continue to increase. Currently the pilgrims are busy working to reach their personal financial goals for the pilgrimage. Now we can all save our dollars for the Condega Auction this fall!

I have heard there are some questions about the pilgrimage. It is on people's minds and lips, what could be better? Our friend St. Brigit is here to answer some of those questions about the J2A Pilgrimage.

Q. Brigit, first of all what IS a Pilgrimage?

A. A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place, a place of special significance undertaken for religious reasons.

Q. Brigit, why a Pilgrimage to Ireland? Why not a closer location? Times are tough, why do the kids want such an expensive trip?

A. Ahhh . . . it is the teen's job to dream. You were a teen, what did you dream? I seem to remember, your generation dreamt of peace when there was war. Ireland is a place close to God, Christian roots go so deep there, and I lived there, loving Christ, so long ago! Ahhh . . . it is the teen's job to dream. Ah ha! Now they and their leaders are working very hard to make it happen, and that is another life lesson. Dreams give way to creation, which takes work!

Q. Why are the kids not doing a mission trip? Shouldn't they be doing a service project instead?

A. A Holy Pilgrimage is a formative piece of the life of a disciple. Lifelong discipleship will include service. There is time for service. You must remember - that is also part of their Journey to Adulthood.

Q. Who chose Ireland?

A. The kids choose their destination. And...God works in mysterious ways.

Q. Brigit, do they go on a Pilgrimage every year?

A. No, no -The next group of kids is still young and getting ready. They are the Rite 13 group and their Pilgrimage will be in the summer of 2012.

Q. How will we know what happened for the kids?

A. When they return, the pilgrims will give the congregation a presentation of what they learned and share their experiences. You will see . . .

Thank you Brigit!

A personal note from the Family Ministries Coordinator:

I gulped when I heard the final choice for the Pilgrimage destination. I was scared, what would people think, in THIS economy? Then I was envious; boy, I'd like a trip like that... After a bit I realized, these teens chose, in my opinion, the most spiritual, the most powerful Christian destination of all the options. Our kids want to go to the seat of Celtic Christianity! A creeping delight has taken hold within me. They also chose to place themselves in the care of an expert shepherd there. Marcus Losack is an Anglican priest who regularly brings folks to God through the thin places of Ireland. My delight has turned to joy. I see these teens growing up as they work for this pilgrimage. Joy deepens when I see individuals and families getting to know them and support them and vice versa. In some important ways, the holy Pilgrimage has already begun.

Trinity dreamed of a youth program where the youth DO something, are engaged and are excited. The journey and the dream are unfolding. We wanted something wonderful for our kids. This Pilgrimage is a very, very special faith-enhancing gift our congregation gives to our teens.

I understand that we all are going through difficult times. Giving is not an expectation for anyone. The teens and their leaders are so grateful for the incredible generosity that has already put this dream close to reality. I add my thanks to theirs.

In Christ,
Mary Wells